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New-Orleans June 17th. 1839.

Met persuant to adjournment present Mr. Shields Commissioner.

Messrs. Bradford, Forstall, Hort, Tyler, Maxwell, Dimitry & Parker

Mr. Bradford Presented the following letters from Dr. Patterson & the direction in pencil from Mr Maxwell.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia June 20th. 1837.

Sir,

I have duly received your letter of the 10th. inst. Three of the Officers of your Mint, being now here, acquiring information and practice in all the operations, I cannot think myself justified in requiring your presence also. Very particular instructions will be given, at the proper time, as to the details of the office business, with which moreover, Mr. Maxwells connection with this Mint has made him familiar.

As to the Salaries of yourself & Mr. Forstall, your mode of proceeding is this. You will write to the secretary of the

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Treasury requesting him to issue his warrant in favour of Edmond Forstall Esq. Treasurer, for the sum of _____ Dollars out of the appropriation for paying the Officers & workmen of the Branch Mint at New-Orleans. From this sum which you will take care not to have too small, though it may exceed your claims if you choose, your salaries will be paid up to the first of July by your Treasurer upon a warrant issued to him by you. A simple manuscript warrant will answer your present purpose: Printed blanks are prepared for you and will be used hereafter.

Your receipt to me I will send by some future occasion.

For the Officers here, I will myself draw on the Treasury.

Most respectfully your
faithful servant
"signed" R. M. Patterson
Director

To. David Bradford, Esq.,
Supt. Br. Mint
N. Orleans

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Mint of the United States
February 28th. 1838.

Sir,

A letter received by me this morning from the Secretary of the Treasury, has the following paragraphs.

"I will thank you to correspond with the Superintendant of the Branch Mint at New-Orleans and ascertain what is the smallest sum which will be required there for the purchase of bullion for coinage and whether it had better be supplied to the Branch, or remain on deposite at the Mint to redeem the Branch Mint Certificates as may be required."

This communication is made in consequence of a letter to the Secretary from your treasurer Mr. Forstall, dated the 13th. instant. & which has been referred to me for my opinion. In this letter to Mr. Forstall applies for a public deposite under the provisio in sect. 12 of the law of July 1836 regulating the deposites of public moneys; and the Secretary of the Treasury proposed to me the two

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"of 20 or 30,000 dollars," which I informed him that I considered entirely inadequate. You know however, that the Treasury is far from being rich in Coin at present, and that is therefore necessary to limit your deposits to the minimum which may be sufficient for your purposes. With this circumstance in View, I will thank you to give me an early answer to the question proposed by Mr. Woodbury.

Very Respectfully
Your Faithful Sert
"signed" R. M. Patterson
Director

To/
David Bradford, Esq.,
Dep. Br. Mint
New-Orleans

Sir,

In consequence of Mr. Bradfords illness which I sincerely regret, both on personal & public grounds, I have judged it proper to direct this letter to you, & I will pray you should Mr. Bradford be still unable to attend to business, to answer the question of the Secretary—

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of the Treasury. Let me advise you to consult Mr. Maxwell on the subject as he has become acquainted here with the exact operations of the public deposite in the operations of the Mint.

Very Respectfully
Your Faithful Servant
"signed" R. M. Patterson

To / Edmond Forstall, Esq.
Treasurer of Br. Mint
New-Orleans

Written in pencil by Mr. Maxwell and admitted by himself to come from him.

Charge the M & R with the Stand silver bullion.
" " " " " " " Clippings
Credit the M & R with all the stand Ingots
Bullion returned 15th Inst.

Mr. Tyler presented the following letters from Mr. Bradford.

U. S. B. Mint New-Orleans
March 12th 1839.

Rufus Tyler Esq. Cashier

Sir,

Two sets of half dollar dies for this year having been received to day, I have to direct that you have the

plan[illegible]tes

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of the Treasury. Let me advise you to consult Mr. Maxwell on the subject as he has become acquainted here with the exact operations of the public deposite in the operations of the Mint.

Very Respectfully
Your Faithful Servant
"signed" R. M. Patterson

To / Edmond Forstall, Esq.
Treasurer of Br. Mint
New-Orleans

Written in pencil by Mr. Maxwell and admitted by himself to come from him.

Charge the M & R with the stand silver bullion.
" " " " " " clippings
Credit the M & R with all the stand Ingots
Bullion returned 18th Inst.

Mr. Tyler presented the following letter from Mr. Bradford.

U. S. B. Mint New-Orleans
March 12th 1839.

Rufus Tyler Esq. Coiner

Sir,

Two sets of half dollar dies for this year having been received to day, I have to direct that you have the planchettes

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June 17.

of that denomination on hand struck with as little delay as circumstances will allow. Yr. Hum. Servt.

David Bradford
Supt.

Treasurer's Office June 10. 1839.

Mr. Rufus Tyler - Coiner

Sir

I request you to inform me on what day you will be able to furnish me with Coins to pay the Commercial Bank $21,625,,94 for Silver Certificates & $14.316,,09 for Gold Certificates

Yr. Obt. Servt

Edm. Forstall

Treas. Br. Mint.

Mr. Slidell called up Mr. Edmond Forstall the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New-Orleans for examination. He was sworn.

Mr. Forstall examined by Mr. Slidell was called upon to produce the books in his office containing entries relative to the deposite of Damian Casas. He produced the following books, which he believes to be all the books.

Yr. Forstall

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June 17th

1° The Silver bullion weighing-book
2° The Certificate silver bullion.
3° The Register of Silver bullion.
4° The Bullion Journal.

Believes that the deposite of Damien Casas was not weighed in his presence. That he considered it unnecessary.

Heard that an alteration was made but not made in his presence, that is an alteration on the left hand side of the sheet torn out.

Quest. On the Torn sheet what do the figures 183,50? denote.

Ans. It is the department of the Weigher. The Question being put in french to Mr. Forstall he replied that the figures being esolated he did not immediately understand the Question, but that it means the Gross weight of the Bullion.

On being asked the meaning of 183.50 on the right column of the left page he answered that it was the same.

Quest. Were they made at the same time?

Mr. Forstall

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Ans. Does not know that they were made at the same time, does not consider himself bound to be present at the entries.

Does not consider himself as bound to attend the weighing of coin or bullion when brought by the depos=itor.

Does not leave it entirely to the Weigher, is very often present, though not considering himself obliged to be so. Was not consulted previous to tearing out of the leaf containing Damien Casas deposite.

That he has no stated periods for examining the Weigher's books, but that the weigher never gives a receipt without his sanction, un=less it be during his (the Treasurer) accidental absence.

Cannot say when the new entry was made of the Damien Casas deposite, believes that it was made the next day, did not see it done though he might have been in the room.

Considers the silver weighing

Mr Stanton

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June 17th.

book as one of his office.

Considers the Silver bullion weighing-book of some importance but does not attach the importance to it that seems to be given to it.

Quest. What book do you consider the material & important book to show the amount of Bullion or Coin deposited?

Ans. The Journal & Certificate books.

Quest. Whence do you draw the materials for the entry on the Journal?

Ans. From the other books.

Quest. Is the Silver bullion weighing book one of the books from which you draw the materials for your entry in the Journal?

Ans. Yes.

Quest. How often are you in the habit of comparing the entries in the Journal with the books from which they are taken?

Ans. That for a long time the Journal has been behind.

Quest. Why was the Journal allowed to be behind?

Ans. Because the Clerks were

Mr. Forstall

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Treasurer of the Mint Dr To the United States.

For amount of Invoices of Copper planchets purchd for coinage dated - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - charged erroneously in the Ordinary Books to the United States, said amt having been erroneously charged as paid out of the fund belonging to the Incidental & Contingent Expenses, instead of the fund accruing from the sale of copper coins: so that the Treasurer of the Mint appears credited twice, - in the Ordinary Books, & in his Copper Acct in the Bullion Journal. - - - - - - - - $ 35,198.43

+ & expenses on transportation of copper coins from Jany 18/37 to June 29/39.

$ 33,533.36
1665.97
$ 35,198.43

$ 33,533.36
12,344.99
21,188.37

U.S. charged erroneously on Ordinary Account,

9287.39
6721.66
7140.88
708.50
7.00
6610.33
3057.60
$ 33,533.36

9287.39
3057.60
12,344.99

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negligent or rather because there was but one Clerk for a long time & he was the weigher.

Quest. Are all the deposites made at this Mint recorded in the journal?

Ans. They should be.

No Deposite of bullion is made after 3 Oclock.

Quest. After 3 Oclock the Clerk even if he performed the duties of Weigher, would he not have time to bring up the journal?

Ans. That he is under no obligation to be present after 3 Oclock, but that with an increased salary he could find the time to do so.

Being asked whether he had ever reported to the Director at Philadelphia, or to the Secretary of the Treasury that the books were in arrear

Replied That he did not understand that he was obliged to correspond directly with the Director. That his correspondence with him was accidental.

Believes that he has represented to the Superintendent that the journal

Mr Dixon Hall

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too obscure & his light too bad for him to have discovered so small a deposite in so dark a place. When Young he had commenced in the keeping of a merchants books; but that the keeping of the books of this Institution are different.

Adjourned to tomorrow at 4 Oclock P. M.

New-Orleans June 18th. 1839.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Present.— Mr. Shields Commissioner
Messrs Bradford, Forstall, Hart, Tyler, Maxwell, Dimitry & Parker.

Mr. Forstall examined by Mr. Bradford.

Mr. Forstall in reply to the enquiry whether he had examined yesterday all the books that he deemed important, said, that from the heat & the state of his mind & being unwell which he had stated to the Commissioner Yesterday, he had given the names of books, which he discovered to be erroneous, that he had called the journal, two books styled the register of gold & and the Register of Silver, which two books in the event of fire he would feel.

mort.

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June 18th.

Most disposed to save.

When he informed the Superintendent of the necessity of having another Clerk. Mr Bradford referred the matter to the Director at Philadelphia, appearer wrote also to Mr. Maxwell. A young man named Spafford was sent out about the month of January 1839 who after a few days in consequence of a difficulty with the Superintendent was removed by him.

Examined on the part of

Mr. Maxwell.

Says that he was well satisfied with the Conduct of Mr. Spofford, that he was an honest man, but that Mr. Bradford was dissatisfied with him because he complained of his insubordination; Regretted that he did not remain, that he gave him at his departure a letter to the Director in which he approved of the conduct of Mr. Spofford so far as related to him the deponent in the Treasurer's office, & stated in the letter that he was dismissed by the Superintendent who complained of him

Does not recollect whether Damien Casas

Mr. Forstall

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was paid in Coin or by a check, Brown
that he was paid because he has his
receipt. Paid by his Clerk Mr
Dimitry.

Does not know who tore the
leaf out of the Silver weighing book.

On being asked whether the Su-
perintendent has a key to one or both
of his Vaults, he answered that the
Superintendent has no key. The weigher
has one & the Treasurer's Clerk the other.

That at the time of the Damrell
Casas Deposite the two vaults be consid-
ered as but one, for Mr. Dimitry was
at the same time the weigher & Clerk
& kept both keys.

That at the time of the Damrell
Casas Deposite a custom had been in-
troduced reprehended by him of accu-
mulating the small deposites ~~and~~
until they amounted to about $2,000,
that he believes that Damrell Casas de-
posite was one of these. That when
the difficulty in relation to this
deposite occurred, he attributed
it to that custom.

That

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That the custom of allowing small deposites to accumulate until they amounted to $2000, was suggested by Mr. Maxwell to Mr Demitry to save the expense of melting.

Quest. Was the amount of Mexican Dollars &c. which had been accumulating in the Treasurer's Vaults delivered over to the Mutter & Wagner soon after the Damien Casas deposite, to whom, to what amount & in what name?

Ans. Does not know, does not recollect.

Quest. Has the Custom of allowing small deposites to accumulate for a melt been discontinued?

Ans. He has given orders to discontinue it, but does not remember when, but it was soon after perhaps the next day after the Damien Casas difficulty.

His impression is that his order has been obeyed but cannot positively say, because he has not examined the weighing books.

Knows nothing of the alterations

Mr Marshall

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June 18th.

What appears in the Certificates of assay No. 97–98 & 99.

Examined on behalf of Mr. Bradford.

Merit Certificate No. 103 dated 20th April 1839 was issued by deponent.

By small deposites he means from $100 & upwards.

If being asked whether his orders to discontinue the accumulation of small deposites was given before or after the Damien Casas deposite.

Answers That this enquiry embarrasses him & he is not able to say, his impression is that it was given before.

From the commencement to the end he disapproved of the Custom of allowing small deposites to accumulate. Being asked his reasons for believing that the Casas Deposite had been placed with the other small deposites for the same melt, says that he believes that it was so, because it ought to be so.

Has never issued a Merit Certificate before assayer's Report.

Quest. Look at the entry in the weighing book

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June 18th.

book in the words & figures following viz:

Mr. Forstall

Was that the amount of small deposites that had accumulated?

Ans. Yes.

Examined by Mr. Slidell.

The Mint Certificates are prepared & filled up by his Clerk before being signed by him. Before signing he is in the habit of Examining the assayer's report and the calculations.

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June 18th

After the receipt of bullion it is weighed by the weigher, passed to the Melter & Refiner, returned by him to the weigher, reweighed, a piece cut off for assay, returned to the Melter and from him to the Coiner through the Treasurer.

When the bullion is melted it is returned for reweighing, reweighed & the piece cut off for assay, it is immediately returned to the Melter unless he is unprepared to receive it, in which case it is put into the vault & there kept until he is prepared to receive it or sends for it.

The weigher keeps the records of the retransfer of the bullion after the reweight by the weigher and upon the retransfer of the Melter for the purpose of melting it into Ingots.

He is not always present when the Second weighing takes place, is often there does not consider it his duty to be present.

Quest. In what book is it that the record of retransfer to the Melter and Refiner is kept the retransfer is made?

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Ans. It is kept in a book now pre-
sented and marked on the back W.B 1839.
That there is no other record of the re-
-transfer except in the book just men-
-tioned.

Being asked to point out the re-
-transfer of the Damien Casas Deposite,
in the book marked W.B. 1839. The depo-
-nent is unable to exhibit any such Con-
-tra. ////

Re-examined by Mr. Bradford.

That the book entitled the weighers
book, contains the monthly deliveries
of bullion to the Melter & Refiner.

Re-examined on the Part of
Mr. Wansnell.

On examination of the weighers
book, does not see that it has been
brought up to the last months.

Being asked if it had been pre-
-viously brought up monthly, answers
that he had not examined it.

Re-examined by Mr. Bradford.

Even since he has known Mr.
Bradford, the conduct of Mr. Brad-
-ford towards deponent has always
been courteous & friendly, the

Mr. Bradford

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same as relates to the assayer.

The same courtesy existed with Mr. Maxwell until the period of Mr. Maxwells letter to the Director when there ceased to be the same cordiality.

With Mr. Tyler he has never had the least official difficulty, excepting Mr. Tyler was not always in a good humour, which as he told Mr. Tyler he attributed to his bad health.

Examined by Mr. Maxwell.

Being asked whether the operations of the Mint had ever been retarded by delays from the Letter & Refineds department, Answers that he does not know, that he has heard the Coiner say once or twice in conversation that he wanted Ingots, perhaps he may have had some, but not enough, the observations were not made, however, as if complaining of the want of Ingots.

Says that Mr. Maxwell exhibited a letter which he supposes to be

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to be similar to one from the Director to Mr. Bradford on the subject of the information to be given by Mr. Maxwell in all that relates to the various duties of the Mint. That Mr Maxwell exhibited extreme readiness to deponent to give him all the information he might want; but that he was informed by Mr. Durel his Clerk, who was on bad terms with Mr. Maxwell, that on his applying agreeably to the Treasurer's instructions, for information, Mr Maxwell had answered that he was no book-keeper, & that it was not of his business. Has never personally asked any information from Mr. Maxwell which Mr Maxwell has not given.

Adjourned to tomorrow at 4 O'clock P. M.

Certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the minutes of the proceedings had before Thomas Slidell, the Commissioner, on the 17th & 18th days of June 1839

In testimony whereof I

Mr. Forstall

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have hereunto subscribed my name &
affixed the impress of my Seal of office, at
New Orleans, on this 5th day of August 1834

Horatio Davis

Notary